

the Claims are fully supported by the Specification. *See e.g.*, paragraphs [0026], [0027] and [0033], and FIGURE 4. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 and 21-23 are currently pending in the application.

I. Specification

The Examiner has objected to the abstract as being informal because of the use of the phrase, “The present invention provides a.” In response, the Applicants have amended the abstract as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner has also objected to the title. In response, the Applicants have amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,020,747 to Bahns *et al.* (“Bahns”). The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, microstylets embedded in the probe body and each having a longitudinal axis aligned along the body longitudinal axis, wherein one end of one of the microstylets is integrally bound to the probe body and another end of that microstylet extends from the shoulder of the probe. Bahns fails to anticipate Claim 1, because Bahns fails to disclose these elements. In contrast, Bahns merely teaches a single fiber that can establish electrical contact with a conductive packing in a holder, or alternatively, can be soldered to the holder (Column 5, Lines 50-56). Moreover, while Bahns states (Column 5, Lines 57-62) that more than one fiber, aligned in a linear bundle to form a ribbon-like tip, can be used, there is no teaching in Bahns that the fibers

are embedded in a probe body where the fiber's longitudinal axis is aligned along the probe body's longitudinal axis.

Claim 21 is likewise not anticipated, because it contains elements analogous to those of Claim 1 as set forth above. Finally, because Claims 2-8 and 23 are dependent on Claim 1, and Claim 22 is dependent on Claim 21, Bahns likewise fails to anticipate these claims.

For these reasons, the Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-8 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

III. Prior Art Made of Record

The Applicants believe that the prior art made of record and not relied upon by the Examiner is not particularly pertinent to the claimed invention, although the Applicants retain the right to address these references in detail, if necessary, in the future.

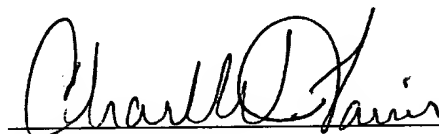
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a timely Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8 and 21-23.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Gaines", written over a horizontal line.

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